

SUBFACULTIES OF MATHEMATICS, COMPUTATION AND STATISTICS

Joint Consultative Committee with Undergraduates

A meeting of the Joint Consultative Committee with Undergraduates was held on **Friday 28th October 2005** at **2.15 pm** in the Mathematical Institute (New Higman Room).

Present: Helene Neufeld, *St Hilda's* (MURC President), Katherine Leonard, *Jesus* (MURC Secretary), Sarah Berman, *Queens* (JCCU Representative), Adam Lindsay, *Keble* (MURC Computer Science Representative), Helen Beggs, *Merton* (JCCU Representative), Anna Duncan, *Hertford* (MURC Open Day Coordinator), Hetal Makwana, *St John's* (MURC Bookstall/Treasurer), Dr G L Luke (Mathematics Teaching Committee/Subfaculty Chairman), Dr C N Laws (Senior Member representing Statistics)

Apologies from: Yael Ukmar, *Corpus Christi* (MURC 4th year Representative), Prof Bill McColl (Senior member representing Computer Science).

UNCONFIRMED MINUTES

1. Meeting held on 13th May 2005

- i) **Minutes**
The minutes were agreed to be a true record of the meeting
- ii) **Matters Arrising**
None

2. Membership of JCCU

- i) Membership of JCCU – the MURC Internet officer is not required to be at the meeting according to MURC constitution rules.
- ii) Katherine Leonard (MURC Secretary) will inform Catherine Goodwin (Academic Administrator, Mathematical Institute) of the new MURC representatives at the end of Michaelmas term

3. Matters raised by Junior Members

- i) It was agreed that this should be moved from position 8 to position 3 on the agenda as Helene Neufeld (MURC President) had to leave for a class.
- ii) The test for the French Classes for the third year was announced very late, and with only a couple of hours notice. Dr Luke agreed that better organisation between the Maths Institute and Language Institute was needed. The Mathematical Institute **will endeavour next year to contact the organisers of the classes and send out an email informing all students of the time of the test.**
- iii) It was pointed out that for some Mathematics courses there are six 1 hour classes, whereas in others there are four 1½ hour classes.

- Dr Luke explained that the 4 class pattern had been agreed centrally and that tutors running 6 classes were out of line.
- iv) MURC did not have time to finish a questionnaire for the part B course at the end of last year, but will finish it this term and hand it on to the new committee.
 - v) The Statistics department has retained six 1 hour classes, and has trimmed down some of the syllabuses for Part B as it was found that there was too much information to be covered.

4. Examinations 2005

- i) Moderations: for the second or third time the moderators were unhappy with the current weak paper rule. . It was thought to be catching students who had a weak day due to nerves. The Mathematics Institute want to substitute a different rule so that you need to pass half the number of papers to pass overall discouraging a student from concentrating on a single paper.
- ii) Part A : the scaling meeting for Part A Maths and Maths and Stats will now happen together for next year. This is not such a problem for Part B as there are no cross-papers.
- iii) Part B : there was a problem with papers B5 and B5a. It was decided that the paper had been compromised, and another mark was substituted for the B5 or B5a mark. All students having taken the paper have the option of resitting the paper this year if desired, and if their mark exceeds the substituted mark, it will then be used.

5. Reports from meetings of Faculty/Teaching/Academic Committee

- i) The first year of Part C will start this year.
- ii) The Part A exam may be taken on one occasion only.
- iii) In Part A the Quantum course will be replaced with Electromagnetism, in order to synchronise with the Physics department, and develop Mathematical Physics.
- iv) In the Part C exam there will be three papers instead of the original four, and candidates will have to answer two questions on each part of a full paper.
- v) Disability issues – the university has asked that lecture notes should be available for courses before the lectures to accommodate disabled students. Dr Luke pointed out that this would be extremely difficult to carry out and would not allow lecturers flexibility to revise lectures.
- vi) There will be no pass list next year for Part A
- vii) There will be no presentation mark for paper AC1
- viii) The Mathematics faculty will do their best to ensure no lecture clashes, although this occurred for one student this term.
- ix) The academic committee of the division has been discussing ways of teaching new members of staff how to teach.

6. Open Days

- i) These were a great success and we note that there is 25% increase in applications for a place to read Mathematics.
- ii) Dr Luke thanked MURC for its involvement

7. AOB

There was no other business to be discussed